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***Urban slavery in Colonial Suriname***

An “agricultural myopia” has limited the understanding of Atlantic slave systems. With the increasing attention to the urban environment in recent years there is a possibility to better understand the changes in the Dutch Atlantic slave society of Suriname between the 18th and 19th century. Especially with regards to the paths slaves found through and out of slavery. Slave strategies were rarely individual, but often depended on kinship groups, partly enslaved, partly free, to try and find was to improve their situation. These kinship groups or bere tried to improve their situation by buying each other out of slavery, finding small niches in the colonial economy and operating in the informal sector.